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FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6186
INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/14/2016
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [KPAL](#) [BA](#) [SY](#)
SUBJECT: URGING BAHRAIN TO RECONSIDER HIGH-LEVEL
INTERACTION WITH SYRIAN OFFICIALS

REF: STATE 197800

Classified By: Ambassador William T. Monroe for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

(S) The Ambassador December 14 delivered reftel demarche concerning reconsidering high-level interaction with Syrian officials to Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, emphasizing that such engagement with Syrian officials could have a damaging impact on Lebanon. Shaikh Khalid replied that the Bahraini government has no plans to engage with the Syrian government at this time. He noted that the Secretary had made a similar request during her meeting with the GCC Plus Two at the Jordan Forum for the Future conference, referring to her interlocutors as U.S. allies and friends. Shaikh Khalid appreciated the Secretary's recognition of the role Bahrain and the other

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attendees play in pursuing common interests in the region, such as in Lebanon, Iraq, and the Palestinian territories.

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